

Restoring  
Your Right to Vote  
Kansas  
Issued December 2000

The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, as yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for the persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

*What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?*

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which h you live, both the state in which you were convicted.

*Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in Kansas?*

If you are a resident of Kansas, you cannot vote while you are incarcerated as a result of a criminal conviction. If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Kansas, you may be able to vote an absentee ballot for your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding bother criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

*I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?*

In Kansas, the right to vote is automatically restored upon release from custody at the expiration of you sentence, or upon final discharge from parole or conditional release. In order to vote, you simply must register.

*What if my conviction was for a federal crime?*

Kansas applies the same riles whether you were convicted of a federal or a state crime.

*What if I was convicted in another state?*

The same rules apply for Kansas voters even if the conviction occurred in another state.

*What happens if I move to another state?*

If you move to another state, you right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

*What Kansas's other voter registration requirements?*

To register to vote in Kansas, you must be a U.S. citizen, a Kansas resident, and be at least 18 years of age before the next statewide general election.

*When do I need to register to vote?*

Registration is available year round in Kansas. However, in order to vote in an election, you must have registered at least 15 days in advance of the election.

Where do I go to register?

Registration is available at many places in Kansas, including the County Clerk's office, post officers and libraries, and many public buildings. In addition, you can register to vote at most public service agencies when applying to receive services.

If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the Kansas Election Division at:

Kansas Secretary of State

Election and Legislative Matters Division

First floor, memorial

120 SW 10<sup>th</sup>. Ave.

Topeka, KS 66612-1594

785 – 269 4561 (Phone)

785 – 291 – 3051 (fax)

1-800 – 262 0 VOTE (toll-free)

[www.kssos.org/main.html](http://www.kssos.org/main.html)

If the Kansas Election Division is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

United States Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Post Office Box 66128

Washington, D.C. 20035

(202) 307 – 2767 (voice)

1-800 253 – 3931 (toll-free)

(202) 307-3961 (fax)

[www.usdoj.gov/crt](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt)

*This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.*